

**INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION  
SUMMARY MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING**

*DATE: November 16, 2000*  
*TIME: 9:00 a.m.*

*PLACE: Natural Resources Building*  
*Olympia, Washington*

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### INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Parlette, Acting Chair	Wenatchee
Ruth Mahan	Friday Harbor
Christine Wakefield Nichols	Snohomish
Cleve Pinnix	State Parks
Stan Biles	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Elizabeth Rodrick	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife

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IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.  
A RECORDED TAPE IS RETAINED BY IAC AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

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### ITEM 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Robert Parlette, Acting Chair, called the November 16, 2000, meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and determined there was a quorum. Elyse Kane and Egil Krogh were not in attendance; Elizabeth Rodrick attended as designee from Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Tammy Owings introduced two new support staff, Jennice Kelly and Naomi Larson.

Mr. Parlette called for approval of the minutes of the September 21-22, 2000, regular meeting. Ruth Mahan **moved** approval of the minutes. Elizabeth Rodrick **seconded**.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

The agenda for the day's meeting was presented and approved as proposed.

### ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT AND STATUS REPORTS

*Director's Report:* Director Johnson presented the Director's report (see notebook for details).

- Eric Johnson has not officially been certified but is the apparent winner of his race for Lewis County Commissioner; Marguerite Austin is serving as the acting manager for the recreation projects section.
- Staff is a beehive of activity due to 250 applications for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grants.
- Congress decided not to pass the CARA legislation. Instead it passed a much slimmed down version, which means IAC will receive somewhere between \$1.5 and \$2 million for the next couple of years.

*Financial & Administration Report:* Debra Wilhelmi presented the Financial and Management Services report (see notebook for details).

- She introduced the agency's new budget analyst from OFM, Jim Skalski.
- Capital expenditures are a little lower than in the past at this time period. On the revenue side, BFP and NOVA continue to follow what was projected; FARR is down drastically from projections. We still have \$1 million in uncommitted funds in WWRP.
- Being a small agency, IAC does not have to participate in the 4% budget reduction exercise; some of our partner agencies have until next Wednesday to provide this information to OFM.

Discussion followed on the legislation causing the need for additional cuts.

*Planning Related Status Report:* Greg Lovelady presented the planning-related status report (see notebook for details).

- IAC played a major role in coordination of Trails Congress 2000 held in October at Snoqualmie; overall it was a positive experience with lots of networking. It was requested the Committee be provided a copy of the document summarizing the Congress.
- In the area of quality improvement, the office's strategic plan document has been completed.
- Staff is still working with FERC license sponsors to meet outdoor recreation (habitat and open space) needs in the state.
- Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program work is continuing; the program is scheduled to begin in early 2001.
- N RTP apportionment for the next fiscal year will be almost identical as what was received this year ~ \$1.2 million.
- Regarding a state games program, staff is researching the concept, history, and logistics.

Discussion followed on the history of the state games issue, with Director Johnson pointing out we are in the research stage and may be back to the Committee with this issue at a later date.

*Project Services Division Report:* Marguerite Austin presented the project services division report (see notebook for details).

- Primary tasks have been preparation/evaluation of projects in two grant programs and execution of project agreements in others.
- Staff held two successful applicant workshops, with a third scheduled for December.
- There were 66 applications submitted for the BFP and NOVA programs; funding recommendations will be presented later.
- The new Boating Advisory Committee member is Robin Estes, who replaced Mike Ramsey when he came to work for IAC on salmon projects.
- BFP advisory committee has suggestions for improving the process, some which may require Committee approval.
- NOVA committee used a written evaluation process for the first time this year;

Scott Chapman will share their assessment of that process later.

- Held annual planning meeting where staff developed list of accomplishments/objectives to address concerns and/or improve process.
- Almost finished with developing the 2001 grant cycle schedule; regarding YAFA, as recommended by COAFAC, we are developing a tentative schedule for a late summer-fall grant cycle, which depends on legislative funding.
- Hope to have a new project manager on board within the next few weeks.
- There is an average of approximately 115 active projects per recreation manager.

*Legislative Issues:* Jim Fox presented the legislative update (see notebook for details).

- Legislature will convene January 8, but we don't know what it will look like because of elections still in question.
- IAC has not submitted any request legislation to the Governor, but there may be bills presented that could affect IAC.
- The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has submitted two pieces of legislation: (1) delete the requirement that the SRFB hold two grant cycles per year and (2) permit state agencies permanent eligibility for receiving SRFB funds.

### **ITEM 3. WWRP UNALLOCATED (ORA&HCA)**

Jim Fox reviewed WWRP unallocated funds distribution issues (see notebook for details).

- Request of \$90 million was established at July meeting.
- At the September meeting, the Committee approved the ranked lists of ORA and HCA projects for submission to Governor.
- At the September meeting, the Committee deferred decision on 2<sup>nd</sup> year local parks category grant cycle and the unallocated funds to this meeting. Decisions on these two deferred items need to be made today.

Mr. Fox stated the staff recommendation for 2<sup>nd</sup> year local parks acquisition is to set aside 25%, as presented at the September meeting.

Mr. Fox provided background information on ORA unallocated funds and reviewed the three options to consider:

- Follow current practices.
- Distribute all unallocated funds to the four ORA categories the first year.
- Distribute all unallocated funds after the 2001 session.

Staff recommendation is to follow the current practice of applying funds by percentage to the four ORA accounts and setting aside a small amount to distribute after the legislative session.

He added the only public input received on this issue since the last meeting was from City of Seattle (letter provided) proposing to shift a greater amount to the local parks

category and a lesser amount to the trails and water access categories.

#### Public Testimony:

Len Barson, *Nature Conservancy*, proposed that State Parks receive a higher percentage of the unallocated funds; this does not mean to diminish local parks projects. This would increase the likelihood of Barrows Island project receiving funding.

#### Board/Staff Discussion:

- Director Johnson commented we need to consider program rules and statutory regulations when changing funding percentages.
- Mr. Pinnix reported State Parks is at a disadvantage if percentage is based on total projects submitted because Parks limits the number of projects they bring forward partly due to what they think the Legislature may fund and staff workload.
- Jim Fox presented history of State Parks' share of unallocated funds for the last five biennia.
- Christine Wakefield Nichols stated the level of care of a facility should be considered; State Parks may have a better level of maintenance.
- Ruth Mahan stated Fort Canby project receiving alternate funding would have a bearing on the State Parks percentage and reaching the Burrows Island project.
- Director Johnson advised the Committee the next alternate project oftentimes, through the course of the biennium, gets funded.
- Mr. Pinnix discussed alternate options depending on if the Committee wants to make a decision today or wait until after the legislative session.
- Mr. Parlette would like to hold less back and increase State Parks' allocation to around 25%, cutting back the trails category and perhaps water access.
- Ms. Wakefield Nichols concurred she would like to commit as much as possible today.
- Mr. Biles stated he is very uncomfortable with unallocated and advocates its elimination. If we are going to have unallocated funds, IAC should establish criteria to ultimately decide the percentages among the categories. Emphasis should not be on number of applications received and not funded in a particular category.
- Ms. Rodrick stated Department of Fish and Wildlife supports committing all of the unallocated funds and supports 20% being committed to State Parks.

Ruth Mahan **moved** to allocate all of the unallocated money before the legislative session. **Seconded** by Stan Biles. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cleve Pinnix **moved** to adopt Resolution 2000-33 amended as follows for distribution of unallocated funds: 40% for local parks, 25% for state parks, 15% for trails, 20% for water access, and deleting the 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph. **Seconded** by Christine Wakefield Nichols.

Ruth Mahan offered a friendly amendment to decrease local parks distribution to 35% and increase state parks to 30%. Elizabeth Rodrick **seconded**.

Ms. Mahan explained her reasoning behind this amendment: (1) historical percentages have shifted to a lower percentage and where we are historically shouldn't necessarily be determining where we are today; and (2) this may increase the probability Burrows Island will be funded this cycle, which is one of the original projects identified in the needs assessment that was the foundation for creation of the WWRP.

Mr. Parlette expressed his support for local parks, stating they are strong supporters of WWRP and there is a strong need for local parks.

Action on the **amended motion** resulted in a **split vote** and motion was **withdrawn**.

Ruth Mahan then **reinstated** the original motion to adopt resolution 2000-33 with the following percentages: 40% local parks, 25% state parks, 15% trails, and 20% water access, and deletion of 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph. **Seconded** by Stan Biles. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Jim Fox presented the HCA portion of agenda item 3, stating there are two options to consider in making a decision on distribution of unallocated funds (see notebook for details):

- Follow current practice of allocating all or part of the funds now and the remainder after the legislative session
- Distribute all funds after legislative session

Staff recommendation is to apply all unallocated funds to the HCA categories before session ~ one-half to Critical Areas and one-half to Urban Wildlife Habitat.

Stan Biles **moved** approval of staff recommendation to distribute all HCA unallocated funds. **Seconded** by Elizabeth Rodrick.

Discussion followed regarding the partial funding of the #5 project in the Natural Areas category. Mr. Biles pointed out this is a multiple-parcel project and partial funding would still allow DNR to purchase several parcels. Ms. Rodrick also added that distribution of all unallocated funds would provide funding for Woodard Bay and Saltese Flats projects. Woodard Bay would complete acquisition of the entire estuary watershed; Saltese Flats is one of the rare opportunities to fund an urban wildlife habitat project on the east side.

Mr. Pinnix reiterated the need to develop criteria for disbursing unallocated funds.

**MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution #2000-34).

#### **ITEM 4. BFP ~ STATE FUNDING**

Marguerite Austin provided an overview of the Boating Facilities Program (see notebook

for details). She reported 24 applications were evaluated, requesting a little over \$6 million; staff estimates there will be about \$4.2 million available for funding. Myra Barker, Kammie Bunes, and Darrell Jennings presented the 15 projects proposed for funding.

### Public Testimony

Bill Hoxie, *Sunland Corporation*, expressed his organization's whole-hearted support of the Sunland Public Boat Launch project (00-1386).

Stan Biles **moved** to approve staff recommendations for BFP state agency projects funding. **Seconded** by Christine Wakefield Nichols. **MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution #2000-35).

### **Item 5. BFP ~ LOCAL FUNDING**

In the BFP local agency category, Ms. Austin reported there were 13 projects competing for approximately \$2.8 million. Projects were evaluated under the same criteria as the BFP state agencies category.

Myra Barker, Scott Chapman, Don Clark, Darrell Jennings, and Kammie Bunes presented the 13 projects recommended for funding with BFP local agency monies.

Stan Biles **moved** to approve staff recommendation for funding local agency projects. **Seconded** by Christine Wakefield Nichols. **MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution #2000-36).

Director Johnson introduced Rollie Geppert, salmon program manager, who introduced members of the salmon team: Barb McIntosh, Marc Duboiski, Brian Abbott, and Mike Ramsey.

### **ITEM 6. LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUNDING OPTIONS**

Director Johnson provided background and updated the Committee on the status of LWCF monies, stating the federal budget appropriated \$1.4 million for grants to be administered by IAC, but we may not receive spending authority until after the legislative session (see notebook for details). She offered the following options for managing these monies:

- Develop a new grant program.
- Follow past practice of applying these funds to WWRP projects.
- Use funds for another grant program, i.e., YAF.
- Combination of grants from several grant programs.
- Set aside as *Critical Project Reserve* for "urgent" or "compelling" projects.

Staff recommendation is a combination of eligible projects from the WWRP and YAF lists. Staff also recommends an advisory committee be formed to review funding recommendations for 2001 and options for future use of LWCF monies beyond 2001.

Director Johnson reported a letter had been received from City of Seattle indicating their concurrence with the staff recommendation and desire to be involved in the selection of potential projects to be considered for funding. Also, Seattle Art Museum and the Nature Conservancy wrote letters expressing support of staff's approach to disbursement of these funds.

Stan Biles **moved** to approve staff recommendation regarding LWCF funding (Page 4 of memo to Committee members [notebook item 6]) with the addition of: "and provide recommendations to IAC prior to federal fiscal year 2002." **Seconded** by Christine Wakefield Nichols. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **ITEM 7. NOVA ~ ORV FUNDING**

Marguerite Austin reviewed the NOVA program, stating 17 projects were reviewed using a written process for the first time (see notebook for details). There is enough money to fund all 17 proposals and staff is recommending approval to fund these 17 projects.

Christine Wakefield Nichols **moved** to approve staff recommendation to fund the 17 ORV projects for fiscal year 2001. **Seconded** by Ruth Mahan. **MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution #2000-37).

#### **Item 8. NOVA ~ NHR FUNDING**

Ms. Austin reviewed the NHR program, stating 12 projects were reviewed using the written process (see notebook for details). There is enough money to fund all 12 proposals and staff is recommending approval to fund these 12 projects.

Elizabeth Rodrick **moved** to approve staff recommendation to fund the 12 NHR projects for fiscal year 2001. **Seconded** by Stan Biles. **MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution #2000-38).

#### **Item 9. NOVA EVALUATION PROCESS**

Scott Chapman presented a request to the Committee to change the evaluation process for all NOVA categories (see notebook for details). He reported the pros and cons of the paper-based process used for the ORV and NHR categories this past funding cycle. Staff recommendation is based on direction from the NOVA advisory committee, input from constituents, and positive feedback on this year's paper-based process.

Stan Biles **moved** to approve staff recommendation to change the NOVA evaluation process. **Seconded** by Elizabeth Rodrick. **MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution #2000-40).

#### **Item 10. NOVA PLAN**



Greg Lovelady updated the Committee on the status of the NOVA plan update (see notebook for details). He reported a draft plan should be available mid-2001.

#### **Item 11. N RTP MANUAL 16 REVISIONS**

Greg Lovelady presented proposed changes to Manual 16, *National Recreational Trails Program Policies and Project Selection* (see notebook for details). He reported there are five housekeeping and four policy issues. The policy issues are:

- For *education* projects, (1) increase grant period to a maximum of two years, (2) modify evaluation rating scale, and (3) add a “needs” evaluation question.
- For *general* projects, (4) decrease pages allowed for question response from four to three.

Mr. Lovelady pointed out the only proposed change that had some dissension was decreasing the pages allowed for question response. Staff, however, would like to implement the proposal and monitor to determine if it should be altered.

Stan Biles **moved** to adopt staff recommendations on revisions to manual 16.

**Seconded** by Christine Wakefield Nichols. **MOTION CARRIED** (Resolution #2000-39).

#### **Item 12. CORRECTIONS LABOR POLICY UPDATE**

Scott Chapman presented an update on the results of implementing the corrections labor policy approved at the March Committee meeting. He reported IAC has received only five reimbursement requests that included corrections labor. We don't expect to see a lot of agencies using corrections labor because of not having access to it. Staff recommends keeping this policy as is at this time.

#### **Item 13. TIME EXTENSIONS**

In compliance with the policy adopted at the July IAC meeting regarding time extensions, Marguerite Austin presented six requests that will extend projects beyond the original four years (see notebook for details).

1. Clark County ~ Haapa Boat Launch (95-027)
2. Pacific County Parks & Recreation ~ Naselle Improvements (96-1242)
3. Pierce County Parks & Recreation ~ Foothills Trail – Orting to South Prairie (96-1140)
4. Snohomish County Parks ~ Centennial Trail Development (92-362)
5. State Parks ~ Blake Island Mooring Floats (96-220)
6. Yakima Valley Sportsmen's Assn ~ Duck Tower (96-331)

Delays have resulted for a variety of reasons, i.e., complicated permitting issues, limited staff resources, etc. Staff recommended extensions for six projects based on circumstances causing the delay and the need to set realistic benchmarks for

projects placed under agreement before implementation of IAC's new milestone process.

Scott Chapman advised the Committee that Mark Crandal and Ron Martin from Snohomish County were at the meeting to answer any questions concerning the Centennial Trail project.

Discussion followed concerning the permit situation and the difficulty in predicting how long it will take to obtain permits.

Stan Biles **moved** to adopt the staff recommendation to grant time extensions for the six projects. **Seconded** by Elizabeth Rodrick. **MOTION CARRIED** (resolution 2000-41).

## **REPORTS FROM PARTNER AGENCIES**

Stan Biles reported DNR's capital budget request was cut, including some projects applied for and not scoring high enough in the Boating Facilities Program. This includes three boating access recreational facilities that will not have restrooms if funding is not found. DNR is about to go into transition in administration as a new commissioner assumes office.

Elizabeth Rodrick, Department of Fish & Wildlife, reported they are making good progress on their acquisition projects and by the end of the biennium will have spent all money up to 1998 projects.

Cleve Pinnix, State Parks, reported they are under direction from the Governor's office to go through a 4% budget cut exercise; there is the potential of park closures. They are now managing about 300 miles of rail trails. A large deposit of sand and gravel along the Columbia Plateau trail has the potential to produce around \$60 million over a 30-year life span if mined. This will raise some policy questions for the Commission and staff. Any revenues received should go back into rail trail projects, so there would be a continued and predictable funding source.

Director Johnson advised that due to the fact the next meeting is not until March and the Legislature will be session soon, please feel free to call if there are any questions/concerns. Also, WAC changes will be brought before the Committee at the March meeting; these are basically housekeeping changes.

With no further agenda items or comments, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

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Robert Parlette, Acting Chair

Next Meeting:      March 8, 2001  
NRB Room 172  
Olympia, Washington